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PREPARING FOR THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY'S 40th FOUNGING ANNIVERSARY

THE Secretariat of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has just given instructions on the commemoration of the 40th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party (Feb. 3). The first of the 31 slogans put forth read as follows:

1. Hail the 40th founding anniversary of our Party!

2. All for our victory over the US aggressors!

3. Let our entire Party, army and people closely unite around the Party's Central Committee, fulfill the last wishes of President Ho Chi Minh, defeat the US aggressors and successfully build socialism!

4. For national independence and freedom, let us resolutely surmount all difficulties and hardships, persevere in, and step up, the war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, till total victory, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country!

The other slogans pay homage to the valiant combativeness of the army and people in the heroic South and North; call on various sections of the people to discharge their responsibilities; show gratitude to the Parties, governments and peoples of socialist countries, to the international communist and workers' movement, the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and peace-loving people all over the world for their support to the Vietnamese people's struggle; wish success to the action of the American people against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, and to the fight of the Indo-Chinese peoples against the common enemy — US imperialism; express staunch support to the legitimate effort of the Arab peoples against the Israeli aggressors, and of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

20th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the DRVN and Socialist Countries

INDEFECTIBLE HISTORICAL TIES

TWENTY years ago, in the second half of January and the first days of February 1950, while our National Resistance against French colonialists was at its fiercest, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was recognized by the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the other European and Asian socialist countries, and diplomatic relations were set up between those countries and the DRVN.

One should look back a little to realize all the meaning and importance of this political event. Since Winter 1947, as a result of the failure of the French offensive against Viet Bac, the Vietnamese Resistance had entered a stage when the strategic retreat of our forces had ceased whereas we were still incapable of launching a general counter-offensive. One thing however was certain: the DRVN, which the colonialists had hoped to wipe out in no time, proved to be in a position to confront a big imperialist army. The years that followed 1947 were used by the Vietnamese people to consolidate their people's demo-

cratic State, their armed forces, their economy, their finances and to enhance their fighting potential so as to oppose to the invaders an ever stiffer and more successful resistance. The achievements of our people were keeping abreast of the progress of the world revolutionary movement. October 1949 saw the triumph of the Chinese Revolution. The geographical isolation of the DRVN came to an end. From now on, our country shared common frontiers with the socialist world. Conditions were thus ripe for the *de jure* recognition of the DRVN by the socialist countries.

This step, which confirmed the maturity of our State, was bound to contribute at the same time to the growth of the latter. It heightened considerably the international prestige of the DRVN, increased manifold our people's strength and gave a new impulse to our struggle for the safeguard of national independence. Our historical victory at Dien Bien Phu and our resounding successes from 1950 to 1954 were indissolubly linked with the support and assistance given us by the Soviet Union, People's China

and the other socialist countries.

After the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the socialist countries, always at our side, helped us generously in our economic rehabilitation and building of socialism in the North, and showed active sympathy with the fight waged by the Vietnamese in both zones for the achievement of national reunification, in face of Washington's imperialistic designs. The support and assistance of the socialist countries grew with the landing *en masse* of US troops in the South and the unleashing of the air war of destruction against the North. While relying mainly on their own strength, our people also highly value the part of brotherly socialist countries in the making of our great successes over the most powerful imperialist country.

The DRVN, unflinching in face of US assaults, enjoys now a prestige higher than ever before. Following in the steps of the socialist countries and many countries of the third world, Sweden recognized her in 1969, whereas

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People's militia of X. Island (Quang Ninh mining area, Bac Bo Gulf) in drill



South Viet Nam

○ Annihilation of Important Enemy Forces:

— 2,500 Adverse Troops Put out of Action in Two Weeks in 3 Provinces of the Mekong Delta.

— 1,800 Others Wiped Out in Central and Southern Trung Bo in 6 Days.

○ 26 Aircraft Downed or Damaged in 16 Days in the Mountain Area between Khe Sanh and A Bia

○ Over One Hundred Targets Hit by PLAF Artillery from January 17 to 21.

"The U.S. Stance Is Inspired by U.S. Intention To Deny the Vietnamese People Their Fundamental Rights" Says Mr. HA VAN LAU

ON behalf of the DRVN Government, delegation, Ambassador Ha Van Lau reviewed at the 51st session of the Paris Conference the developments of the confrontation between the two completely conflicting positions and attitudes over the last year at the Conference: the eager desire to achieve independence and genuine peace and good will and serious attitude of the DRVN and the RSVN on one side, and the neo-colonialist and aggressive position and ill-considered and tricky attitude of the US on the other.

The DRVN envoy denounced US pursuance of its scheme for aggression against Viet Nam for over 15 years by political and economic means, and escalating it to a colonialist war involving over half a million US troops and half a million puppet troops. As those military aggressions failed, the US had to unconditionally stop the bombing of the DRVN and send a delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. But it

still intends to prolong its war of aggression by trying to negotiate from a "position of strength" in combination with military moves on the battlefield. Though such a "position of strength" cannot be achieved by the US, the latter does not give up the illusory hope for a military decision and makes all-out efforts to drag the war out as a main measure and stall the talks.

Mr. Ha Van Lau exposed US attempt to justify US aggression in Viet Nam and its "peace plan," "troop withdrawal" and "guarantee of the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people," etc. In reality, the US government has been trying to drag on its aggression, is reluctant to withdraw all US troops and is striving to prolong the military occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops. It has been endeavouring to maintain and strengthen the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration as a tool of the US against the South Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle.

Over the last year and after 50 sessions, it has become apparent that the US position on the settlement of the Viet Nam question has not been inspired by the respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. Instead it has been prompted by its desire to deny these fundamental rights, under false pretext.

"If the Paris Conference is to get out of its deadlock and to end in success, if the war in Viet Nam is to be promptly terminated, the only way is that the Nixon administration should give up its outdated aggressive and neo-colonialist stance and engage in serious negotiations at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam," Ambassador Ha Van Lau concluded.

Hanoi Press Opinion

AGNEW'S ASIAN TRIP

ALTHOUGH Nixon had every prestige uplift, the 60,000-kilometre tour only earned him and the US imperialists bad reputations. Agnew's trip was abundantly reported on the anti-US demonstrations wherever Agnew went, from Manila to Auckland.

The Filipino people greeted him with turbulent demonstrations under the slogans, "Go back Agnew," "Agnew, crocodile of the US," and "Americans, withdraw from Viet Nam!" Filipino youth and students threw stones and explosive and gas bombs at Agnew's car and called for an end to the US aggression in Viet Nam.

In Thailand, the activities of the patriotic armed forces and the people's movement for the dismantling of US military bases, the withdrawal of US troops from Thailand and that of Thailand troops from South Viet Nam, were given a vigorous impetus by the US Vice-President's tour. Even in remote highlands of Viet Nam, Agnew also met with strong protests.

In Katmandu, youth and students demonstrated under the slogans "Agnew, go home," "Down with American imperialism!", "Americans, out of Viet Nam!" and "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!"

At Kabul, hundreds of students hurled stones at Agnew's car, tore through the "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!" banner and shouted, "Down with

American imperialism!" and "Stop killing Vietnamese!" In Australia, tomatoes and eggs were slung at him while protesters chanted, "Agnew, go home!", "Fascist pig!"

Hundreds of youths carrying flags of the DRVN and of the Republic of South Viet Nam blocked the way of Agnew's party. About the outburst in Auckland, New Zealand, UPI said, "it was one of the most violent demonstrations ever seen there."

Agnew's experience was not just a personal failure but chiefly one of the US imperialists and the US administration. Agnew's task was to explain the "Nixon doctrine" or "New Asia doctrine" and the "Vietnamization of the war." He had been instructed by the Nixon administration to give the US satellites a moral boost and exact from them a bigger share to prolong the war and realize the US scheme to use Asians to fight Asians. But Agnew's mission took place at a time when US imperialism was meeting with heavy setbacks in Viet Nam, that had forced Nixon to seek ways to withdraw US troops, and when the US was experiencing growing difficulties at home and abroad.

His stealthy visit to Saigon only showed the Nixon administration's stubbornness and ill-considered and illusory hope to prolong the war and maintain its neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam through the "Vietnamization" program. In Bali,

Spiro Agnew declared that the end of the Viet Nam war was still a long way off, and "a quick pull-out of American troops from Viet Nam would be disadvantageous to Southeast Asian countries."

It is clear that Agnew had a hard job strengthening the confidence of the US satellites. Faced with popular protests, the Philippines administration had had to withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam. Filipino Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo cast his doubts on "the American defence of the Philippines in the future." The Chiang Kai-shek clique made it plain that despite US oft-repeated promises, their moral was crumbling.

A "Double Prong Offensive" (to ensure high technical standard and to be efficient in labour) has been launched which has drawn 200,000 young co-op farmers as activists of the emulsion movement in the province.

In Ninh Binh province, hundreds of co-op farmers took part in the "Labour Festival" on January 4, the first socialist Labour Sunday to be regularly kept every month in the province this year. All the leading officials including the Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and the Chairman of the Provincial Administrative Committee attended it.

During the day many production teams and groups exceeded their ploughing, harrowing and planting norms by from 20 per cent to 60

Giai Phong Press Agency REFUTES U.S. CHARGE

GIAI Phong Press Agency on Jan. 21 issued the following statement:

"The US Military Command in Saigon published on January 17 the fantastic story that the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces had 'executed' two US prisoners allegedly captured near Hue by the PLAF and detained for 45 days."

"Giai Phong Press Agency

is authorized to reject this charge as a crude slander, and a move aimed at diverting public attention from the US imperialists' atrocities against the PLAF fighters and other patriots in South Viet Nam, and a cheap war gimmick coordinated with the so-called POW question about which the US has been raising a hue and cry at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam."

G.D.R. Red Cross Refutes Western Press Distortions on American Captured Pilots

PROFESSOR Dr. Werner Ludwig, President of the GDR Red Cross, handed on January 13 to pressmen a statement refuting the false report spread by the Western press

the agenda of the Conference and there has been no resolution of the Conference on this question. Everyone knows that the DRVN has been treating those detainees in a humane manner."

The statement declared approval of the DRVN Government's position which rejected the American pirates captured in the DRVN as war criminals who have perpetrated crimes against humanity and as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The statement wrote: "In my capacity as head of the GDR Red Cross delegation to the Istanbul Conference, I declare: The question of the American pilots now detained in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has never been included in

the agenda of the Conference and there has been no resolution of the Conference on this question. Everyone knows that the DRVN has been treating those detainees in a humane manner."

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INDEFECTIBLE HISTORICAL TIES

(Continued from page 1)

the problem of her recognition is on the agenda of the ruling circles of many other capitalist states.

Twenty years have elapsed since our country joined the international community, by setting up diplomatic relations with the socialist countries in the first instance. The ties which bound Viet Nam to the socialist countries have ever since been considerably strengthened. Indeed between the socialist countries

and various national liberation movements, between those countries where the building of socialism has reached a relatively advanced stage and a country which is taking initial steps in the building of socialism while still having to carry on one of the most gruelling anti-imperialist efforts, the ties of brotherhood, solidarity and co-operation are necessary and historical ties. And as such they are indefectible.

During the day many production teams and groups exceeded their ploughing, harrowing and planting norms by from 20 per cent to 60

THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

WIDESPREAD EMULATION MOVEMENT TO HONOUR PARTY ANNIVERSARY

SINCE the New Year began the whole North Viet Nam has been carrying out a stirring emulation movement for higher efficiency in production and other work to commemorate in a practical way the four major anniversaries occurring this year (the 40th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, February 3; the 50th birthday of Lenin's birth, April 24; the 80th birthday of President Ho Chi Minh, May 19; and the 25th founding anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam).

After Hanoi and Haiphong took the initiative, many provinces and services have inaugurated their year's first drives of emulation to honour the coming anniversary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

In their current "campaign before the New Year" for new achievements, as a tribute to the Party "the co-op farmers in Hai Hung and Thai Binh, two important rice-growing provinces of North Viet Nam, are focusing on an all-round good Winter-Spring cultivation."

Every day, hundreds of thousands of co-op farmers in Hai Hung go to the fields. Many crash courses have been opened in various districts to teach co-op farmers in the new planting method which is more efficacious and more in line with agro-techniques than the traditional one. Nearly 60,000 co-op farmers have gone through these courses.

The co-op farmers in Thai Binh have also taken part in numbers in rice-planting courses. Besides, tens of thousands of co-op farmers in the province daily go to the fields to repair or dig more canals and ditches to expand the water conservancy systems.

A "Double Prong Offensive" (to ensure high technical standard and to be efficient in labour) has been launched which has drawn 200,000 young co-op farmers as activists of the emulsion movement in the province.

In Ninh Binh province, hundreds of co-op farmers took part in the "Labour Festival" on January 4, the first socialist Labour Sunday to be regularly kept every month in the province this year. All the leading officials including the Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and the Chairman of the Provincial Administrative Committee attended it.

During the day many production teams and groups exceeded their ploughing, harrowing and planting norms by from 20 per cent to 60

It is a long way from the district town to her home in Dan Chu village, about a dozen kilometres or so. But every time she went to town to attend a conference or make a routine report to the district committee, Mrs. Thuoc did not spend the night there but rode home on her bike even if it was already dark; she still had to attend to her newborn baby.

That day she went home when it was already dusk. She worked her pedals hard on the macadam road. There were few passers-by at that hour. Occasionally, a car would drive past, dazzling her with its headlights and raising a cloud of dust. Thuoc hurried on, paying no attention to the surroundings, engrossed as she was in the reports at the district committee.

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She arrived at the village before her husband where she was. Each time she looked at the banyan tree at the village gate and her modest cottage in the neighbourhood, Thuoc was filled with an indescribable joy, the joy of having accomplished a task assigned with that of being back to her beloved ones.

"Mum is back!"

Little Thanh and Hong who were miming the child cried out with joy. Thuoc lent the bike against the wall, took off her outer jacket and brushed the dust off it, then took the three-month child in her arms and said fondly:

"O my darling daughter, you slept like a log while I was at the meeting. What a jewel you are!"

The child looked at her mother with her black round eyes, then flashed an innocent smile, kicking the air with her little plump legs.

After suckling the kid, Thuoc did some washing for her mother. She lit a mosquito net and tucked her in. Then she lit a kerosene lamp and went out for a check on the pigsty and chicken pen.

The home remained as neat and clean as it was in the morning when she left for town. By the thought of the Party and felt immensely indebted to it for having brought a new dawn to the country.

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and women were merrily talking to each other to a meeting.

Thuoc's memory went back to the day when Nam, her husband, who was at the time garrisoned on Bach Long Vi Island, returned home on a short leave. It was a beautiful night like this but in summer-time and the wind blowing from the sea was pleasant.

After many days of fierce fight against enemy planes and warships Nam lost some flesh and was tawnyer than usual. But his stony and firm look remained the same.

Thuoc had just been nominated for the village committee chairmanship and she had been in two minds. Some encouraged her to take up the job but others had urged her to stay at home. "You have many small kids to raise. That's not the job for you!" To tell the truth, she

did not dread difficulties. Since her admission to the Party, she had not turned down any Party assignment. Nam, who was the chairman of the village committee was something she had never thought of. At the meeting of the Party cell, comrade Kien, the secretary, had convinced her of her abilities and promised assistance to her in her new position.

After all, she thought, if one strictly keeps to the Party line and does one's utmost, anything can be done. Firm in her conviction, she however wished to write her husband for his opinion.

Nam returned at the right moment. He made a round of the house and garden and was very pleased to see everything in apple-pie order as when he was still at home. He even found a spool of kerosene on the table in the centre of the room. Nam told his wife tenderly:

"You had a hard and dangerous time over there on the island but at night when I thought of home, I felt upset with all your household and village tasks you had a tougher time than I."

Thuoc looked up at her husband and her love for him grew so great for words. At night, only after much pondering did she tell him:

"You know, darling, they want to put me on the chair of the village committee. I'm a bit worried. I only fear there won't be much time left for the household chores."

In her emotion, Thuoc seemed to hear the throbbing of her heart. But her fears were soon dispelled by the warm words of her husband:

"Don't be afraid, dear. Our people have picked you out for the job because they know you are equal to it. You think our women in the old regime ever dared to

dream of such a responsibility. Just try your best. Do you remember, in the former war of resistance, hardships, privations and dangers were numerous, yet we both managed to take part in things and much better than so there isn't any reason why we can't get all our work done."

Thuoc's love and esteem grew deeper for her husband who shared with her the same ideal, the same eager desire to put their heart and soul in the service of the community.

Thuoc was appointed chairman of the village committee at a time when many difficulties were cropping up. Dan Chu village, Tu Ky district, had long been known for its all-out efforts and low-lying fields permanently threatened by flood. The unusual level of the lands made it almost impossible to build rice bound

aries for irrigation purposes. Thuoc, moreover, was ignorant of the characteristics of the fields in her village. Comrade Kien, gave her advice and showed her how to work out this and that plan. After each session with her, he would tell her with a smile: "Don't you worry. You can always solve any problem, concerning production and the people's life if you know how to rely on the masses. That's the key to success."

Everyday Thuoc was seen in her black trousers with rolled-up legs trudging along muddy rice plots to determine the nature of the soil of each plot and the redistribution of the cultivated land to the co-operatives. At night she would attend meetings of the youth, women, old people...

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The Nixon Administration's One Year's Crimes in Viet Nam

(Excerpts from the Jan. 17 statement of the DRVN Commission for Investigation of the US Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam)

SINCE Nixon entered the White House on January 20, 1969, a year has elapsed and far from finding soon a peaceful settlement to the Viet Nam problem and quickly putting an end to the war in Viet Nam, the new US President has been pursuing the neo-colonialist war of aggression, committing more and more atrocities against the Vietnamese people with new and even crueler methods.

"ACCELERATED PACIFICATION PROGRAMME"

THE Nixon administration has been putting into practice the utterly vicious "accelerated pacification programme" as backbones of its "Vietnamization" plan. Such "accelerated pacification" undertaken after 14 years of bloody "pacification" and setbacks, could but signify ever more savage massacre and extermination. Operations of battalion-size upward rose from an average of 40-50 a day in January 1969 to over 70-80 a day in November and December 1969. US puppet and satellite troops were hurled into raids on the countryside in South Viet Nam where Son My-type slaughters were frequent. From January 11 to February 13, 1969, during a big sweep directed against Ha Lang An region (Quang Ngai province), more than 8,000 US and puppet troops killed on the spot over 100 civilians herded about 11,000 people in Van (Thanh Hoa) and Dong (Thanh Hoa) towns and drove 1,200 others on the high seas. On February 23, 1969, US aircraft and artillery bombarded Kong H'Khuah amp (Kontum province) where more than 10,000 Catholics of the Sektan national minority had been concentrated, killing over 150 and wounding thousands of people.

From November 11 to November 16, 1969, during the sweep code-named "Sea Tiger" directed against 12 villages of Thanh Binh district and 5 villages of (Que Son district) (Quang Nam province), 8 battalions of puppet and satellite infantry murdered over 700 South Vietnamese civilians, burnt down over 1,000 houses, destroyed thousands of hectares of crop, captured hundreds of people and took them to concentration camps or to unknown destinations.

"FREE-FIRE ZONES"

THE Nixon government intensified the use of its Air Force, Navy and artillery against populated areas, many of which had been defined as "free-fire zones". Everyday, thousands of sorties of helicopter gun-

ships were flown to "hunt" the population. Strategic B-52s carried out carpet-bombing with a degree of fierceness never seen under Johnson, wiping out whole villages, devastating large expanses of crop fields. From data supplied by the US Defence Department itself, B-52 strikes rose from 137 in January 1969 to nearly 200 in December 1969. The daily average of sorties of fixed-wing aircraft also climbed from over 200 in January 1969 to more than 400 in December 1969, in ferocious attacks against populated areas. Since the beginning of 1969, more than 1,100,000 tons of bombs were dropped on South Viet Nam. B-52s alone discharged 240,000 tons of bombs in the first 6 months. US artillery fired at random billions of shells of all calibres. US warships daily slammed an average of 800 shells, and US guns 20,000 shells, on Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces.

TONIC CHEMICALS

PARALLEL to those indiscriminate bombardments, the Nixon government stepped up the use of toxic chemicals, gases, napalm and phosphorus bombs to murder, maim and poison the life of war, endangering the life of the population, especially women and children, destroying the sources, and upsetting the conditions of life of the South Vietnamese people and even the vegetal and animal life. Over 285,000 people were affected and more than 900,000 hectares of fields and orchards completely ruined by such chemicals. Recently, in December 1969, US expeditionary troops sprayed toxic chemicals over 6 villages in the vicinity of Hue city, withering rice seedlings, cassava, sweet potatoes and tea plantations, denuding a whole area 16 km in length along the rail-road from Phu Hai to Hue.

PITTING VIETNAMESE AGAINST VIETNAMESE

THE Nixon government egged on the puppet junta to speed up operations from 17 to 42 years of age, improve equipment of the puppet army, urgently open crash courses for the training of the new weapons. The US turned over to the puppet army 700,000 M-16 guns, 2 squadrons of 37 fighter-bombers, 4 squadrons of UH-1 helicopters, increased its cannons by 50 per cent and given it 220 more officers and men to the US for military training; gradually

handed over to the puppet forces a number of military bases such as the My Tho naval base, the Nha Trang air base, etc. The puppet administration cracked down on anyone who favoured peace, neutrality, coalition, closed down newspapers, persecuted the intellectuals, victimized religious communities.

CRIMES AGAINST NORTH VIET NAM

AS regards North Viet Nam, the Nixon government also applied its "maximum military pressure" policy, grossly encroaching upon the DRVN's sovereignty and endangering its security, piling up crimes in the hope of winning a "position of strength" at the Paris Conference.

In 11,980 sorties, spy planes of all kinds carried out 7,970 reconnaissance missions over 25 North Vietnamese provinces and cities (from 700 sorties in January 1969 to 900 sorties in December 1969). Hanoi airspace was violated 81 times and Haiphong 126 times. On an average, about 1,000 sorties of US spy planes were flown into the DRVN's airspace every month (almost double the figure in 1968).

Conventional tactical jet aircraft, in the past year, launched a total of 657 attacks against populated areas between the 17th and the 19th parallels, dropping 15,000 demolition bombs, 210,000 round-shaped steel-pellet bombs, firing 30 missiles and 622 rockets. The number of raids, from 17 in January 1969, rose to 63 in December 1969. In January 1969, US planes attacked the Huong Son afforestation centre (Ha Tinh) and the Nghi Quang dam (Nghé An); in April, Quang Khoi co-operative, Khanh Thoi secondary school (Nghé An), and Tien Phong co-operative (Quang Binh) in July. US aircraft even went beyond the 20th parallel to attack Son Tien village, of Thanh Hoa district (West Thanh Hoa), with steel-pellet bombs and cannons.

The Nixon administration unrelentingly carpet-bombed the 254 population centres in Quang Binh province and Vinh Linh area with 5,140 tons of explosive to

WHILE indignant public opinion in the world and in the US was still under the shock produced by the revelation on the Son My and other atrocities in South Viet Nam, the US aggressors committed fresh mass-murders there.

In a statement issued on Jan. 19, the Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists and their Henchmen's Crimes in South Viet Nam exposed the following crime:

From November 11 to 16, 1969, the US aggression deployed 8 infantry battalions (including 6 of puppet administration cracked down on anyone who favoured peace, neutrality, coalition, closed down newspapers, persecuted the intellectuals, victimized religious communities.

"Violent air and artillery bombardments preceded the

A NEW ATROCITY IN QUANG NAM (SOUTH VIET NAM)

action, in which the soldiers waded through blood. In only one day, November 11, 1969, they slaughtered 349 people, mostly children and women. In Lac Con market, Ban Binh Thung, Ban Binh Ha, Duy An, Ha Tay hamlets in Binh Duong village, the first hamlet, they herded 75 civilians in Trang Cat and exterminated them with Claymore mines. Only a 2-year-old baby survived, protected by the bodies of his mother and other victims. In the second and third, they mowed down 39 people in Mr Tho's shelter and 15 others in Mr Phang's underground refuge. Many families in Ban Binh Ha, Duy An and Ha Tay were massacred to the last man.

"In two days, November 11 and 12, 1969, they killed 132 people in Binh Giang village, 125 in Binh Tri village and 86 in Binh Hoa village. In Ha Binh hamlet (Binh Hoa village) 7 fishermen just back from work were marched off to Binh Tinh post, where they were lined up and shot dead. Mr Phio, 70, of Phu Hoa hamlet (Binh Hoa village), was put to the torture, and strangled to death. Mrs Hoa, a 25-year-old woman of Binh Tay hamlet in Binh Giang village, was beaten to death and her body was afterwards pelleted with bullets. Mrs Do Thi Mich, 59, and Nguyen Thuan, 57, were cut down at the entrance of a shelter. Two 17-year-old boys were savagely tortured and finished with three bursts of machine-gun fire each. None of Mr Su's family of 10, including 7

children under 14, of Phu Son hamlet (Binh Hoa village), escaped from the slaughter. An octogenarian woman, Mrs To Thi Chin, of Hien Luong hamlet (Binh Hoa village), was crushed by an armoured car.

"According to still incomplete initial reports, in only two days, November 11 and 12, 1969, more than 700 civilians of 5 villages, Binh Duong, Binh Giang, Binh Trien, Binh Hoa and Binh Bao, were butchered. Over 1,000 houses were burned down, thousands of hectares of crops devastated, more than 100 head of cattle, 2,000 pigs and countless fowls killed, a great amount of rice and other property looted or set on fire. Bull-dozers levelled to the ground Ban Binh Thung, Ban Binh Ha, Duy An and Ha Tay hamlets (Binh Duong village). In addition, thousands of other villagers were imprisoned in camps or taken to unknown destinations."

The statement added: "It should be recalled that the soldiers of the first massacre of defenceless

people in Quang Nam. There had been those of 130 people in Chau Son, Cam Le (Hoa Vang district), in August 1965, of about 200 people in Ban Han in January 1967, of 734 people in Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen and Hai An in February and March 1968, of 100 people with aerial bombing in Tam Hoa village, Da Nang, on October 29, 1969, of 476 in some villages of Thanh Binh, Tam Ky, Que Son districts from November 7 to 17, 1968, of 200 people in the Ti Se area, Phuoc Son district, from January 15 to 27, 1969, of 111 people in Thanh Binh district from March 31 to April 4, 1969, of 301 people in Loc Phao and Loc Hoa villages (Dai Loc district) from May 9 to 12, 1969, of 145 people in Binh Duong and Binh Hoa villages (Thanh Binh district) from April 25 to May 13, 1969, of 300 people east of Thanh Binh district from April 24 to May 23, 1969.

"That such a small area as that of the Dai Loc, Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Thanh Binh, Tam Ky, and Que Son districts of Quang Nam province has been the scene of so many saturnalms of slaying easily disposes of US President Nixon's claim that Son My was only an isolated case and the US Administration's assertion that US troops were in South Viet Nam to defend freedom and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese," concluded the statement.

"Vietnamization" of the War

WHITHER NIXON'S NEW FORMULA: PUPPET GROUND FORCE + U.S. FIRE POWER?

MILITARILY, "Vietnamization" of the war, the key-stone of Nixon's Viet Nam policy, boils down to the following formula:

Puppet ground force + US fire power.

The unknown in that formula advanced by Washington must be a position of strength enabling the US aggressors to attain at low cost their goals in Viet Nam: to put South Viet Nam under the US thumb by shoring up there a neo-colonialist regime represented by the puppet administration in Saigon it has installed in power against the people's will, occupy militarily the South for an indefinite period by refusing to withdraw totally in a short time the US expeditionary force and foreign mercenaries. This is what Nixon and his negotiators have hypocritically called an "honourable solution" to their criminal adventure.

Nixon and company think that the puppet troops who are badly trained by their adversaries, hated by the population, despised by their "allies", divided and disorganized, can be galvanized by a massive transfusion of modern weapons and stauncher support of an important contingent of US troops. They think that this is feasible for the puppet troops have only to be on their own in a defensive strategy. As for the US forces, when the numbers are costly, inefficient, and, to boot, demoralized infantrymen have been withdrawn, they would make war only with aircraft, artillery, armoured vehicles and warships US losses would thus be lowered and become "acceptable" to the American public.

The puppet troops would bear the brunt of the war and the US war of aggression would go on with less troubles for the US at home and abroad.

The "puppet troops + US fire power" formula was experimented by the "Eastern Pentagon" in 1969 in some sectors as the Western High Plateaux, Saigon area and Mekong delta with the following results:

In May, the Dak To area, in the northernmost part of the Western High Plateaux, 150 km south-southwest of Da Nang, which had been transferred to the puppet 42nd Regiment, was soon the theatre of a large-scale PLAF offensive. To rescue the puppet 47th and "Ranger" Regiments were hurriedly hurled into the battle while B-52 "Stratofortresses" dropped daily from 500 to 1,000 tons of bombs. Elements of the US 4th Infantry Division which formerly operated in that sector also had to intervene. This was the Ben Het-Plei Cam campaign which was the talk of the town at that time. After over two months all the twelve puppet battalions were more or less depleted. On their part, the GIs took 500 casualties and nearly 200 choppers and planes were downed or damaged. On July 7, AP described as "disappointing" the results of that first experimentation conducted to see whether the puppet ground force could hold out without assistance from US infantry.

Meanwhile, about 80 km east-northeast of Saigon, a second experimentation of "Vietnamization" was carried out in the Long Khanh province by the puppet 18th Infantry Division reinforced on recommendation from the US command by fresh contingents of officers and men. In 17 days, from May 8 to 24, in Dinh Quan-Tam Bung region, 8 battalions and 2 armoured squadrons of that unit were whittled down and the 43rd Regiment virtually knocked out.

There was also the case of the puppet 15th Armoured Regiment on the same Saigon front. That unit was newly set up at the beginning of 1969 by the US 11th Armoured Regiment, the only American regiment of that kind in South Viet Nam, of which it was the natural substitute. In a seven-day engagement in the Binh Long sector in August, it was put to the test. The puppet 9th Regiment despite massive cover of US artillery, aircraft and armoured vehicles.

Two months later, another attempt was made in October by the enemy in the southernmost end of the Western High Plateaux, in Duc Lap-Bu Prang region. The battle toll was heavy for the puppet troops: 4,000 casualties (a multibattalion unit written off the muster-roll, 107 planes and helicopters downed or burnt, 42 ordnance pieces and a dozen fuel tanks and ammunition dumps destroyed, 50 per cent of the 12 battalions involved disabled.

In the Western press there were abundant commentaries on the setbacks suffered by the

sting to the puppet troops, it had been enough to equip them with a huge armoury and materials and to beef up their build-up by an intensified draft, the US would not have committed to South Viet Nam from 1965 to 1968 600,000 GIs and mercenaries from satellite countries. Five years ago, offered by 30,000 American "advisors", the puppet army—which was Vietnamese by name only—was beaten hollow in the "special war". In the "local war" waged in the following stage of US escalation, it did not fare better and also played the role of "extra". Now that the American

fire-power achieved by their high degree of industrialization. The disappointment they experienced in this respect has touched off a lot of squabbling in the US ruling circles with regard to the role played by technology and armament in such a war as waged in Viet Nam. It is however interesting to note a little difference this time. Johnson put into gear the US war machine in 1965 in an attempt to crush the Vietnamese resistance and snatch a quick military decision. Now Nixon, who is perhaps more realistic, hopes only to "hold", to drag out the war and sustain an "endurance" test with the Vietnamese people in order to seek an avenue of escape favourable to the US imperialists' neo-colonialist interests.

However, 1969 showed the flimsiness of these hopes. In the above-mentioned Ben Het-Plei Cam campaign, there were 60 B-52 raids and 917 sorties of US tactical planes. In the Duc Lap-Bu Prang-Bu Dop sector, in 7 weeks, 17,000 tons of bombs were rained by B-52s and 2,000 tons by fighter-bombers, etc., without being able to stave off the puppet troopers' disaster.



American tank captured by the PLAF

Americans in the utilization of the puppet troops as spearheads in place of the US expeditionary forces. The Baltimore Star revealed on October 29, that the US command held that the results obtained in the second half of 1969 by the puppet troops were not so satisfactory as in the corresponding period of 1968 and that the combat efficiency of the puppet 7th, 9th and 21st divisions stationed in the Mekong Delta was not up to the mark.

Impartial observers unanimously recognized these facts and gave a scathing denial to the economic assertions of the Washington authorities who claimed that the puppet troops had been overnight improved.

No doubt, if to give more

spearhead has been blunted by the patriotic forces and that Washington seeks to withdraw its expeditionary forces from the Viet Nam horns' nest, one wonders how that bacardi, anti-national, demoralized and divided army can relieve the GIs?

Does Nixon in fact rely on the US fire-power, the second term of the new formula, to "revive" the puppet army? Can he, by indiscriminate bombings and shelling, intimidate the South Vietnamese people, prevent his "allies" from disbanding, and weaken his adversary to the point of shattering his resolve and thereby securing some "position of strength"? It's doubtful.

In South Viet Nam, it is not the first time that the Yankees resorted to the

The bankruptcy of the "special war" had sealed the fate of the formula: puppet ground force + US fire power. The "US land force + US fire power" formula has also fizzled out with the "local war".

Returning to the "improved" version of the "puppet ground force + US fire power" formula, Nixon only bares his obstinacy to hopelessly continue Johnson's criminal war. It's no more possible to alter the course of events, for the root of Nixon's formula has always been:

Puppet ground force + US fire power = setback of the US and quittings.

THAILAND'S PARTICIPATION IN U.S. WAR AGAINST LAOS

(Excerpts from Jan. 13 memorandum by Laotian Patriotic Front Central Committee)

EVER since the late fifties the US has transformed Thailand into a bridgehead for sending US weapons and war means to its Laotian henchmen from Katay Donasorth, Phou Samanik to Phoumi Nosavan.

Even after the signing of the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, it kept relying on Thailand to further its intervention and aggression in Laos. The US-Thailand collusion, either surreptitious or open, has by now reached so dangerous a level that it is causing alarm to public opinion right in the US and Thailand.

1 — A system of strategic US airbases set up and a big US air force deployed in Thailand in service of the war against Laos

A system of US air bases has now been spread over the Thai territory. Of these, mention should be made of the following six major ones which are directly serving the US war of aggression in Laos:

The Udon air base, 165 km from Lao frontier, is accommodating four squadrons of F-4H jet planes that are at least 12 planes to a squadron specifically intended for bombing raids in Laos. Another squadron is meant for night activity. Besides, the air base is also used for spying missions against the free zone of

Laos and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Takhi and Korat air bases: Many squadrons of F-105 attack planes are based there. Korat can be easily turned into a big base for ground forces. At present, the 9th American logistics headquarters is installed there with big hardware storages: artillery pieces, tanks, trucks, ammunition, etc., chiefly reserved for the puppet army in Laos.

The Udon airbase is accommodating four squadrons of F-4H jet fighters and two squadrons of reconnaissance planes. This base is also the headquarters of the American "special forces" in Southeast Asia code-named HQ 133 which is directly commanding the US-fostered "special forces" in Laos.

The Nakhon Phanom air base: over 100 propeller-driven planes of all sorts: T-28, A-26, A-1E, Skyraiders, C-123, Caribbeans, C-47 biplanes, etc., are stationed there to cater for the supply and troops landing missions of the Laotian "special forces" scattered in over 200 positions throughout Laotian territory. Many of the "special forces" positions lie deep in the free zone of Laos to pinpoint targets for support air strikes. B-52 bombings or to provide support for attacks against the patriotic forces, such as the Pathet Lao, in the past and Longchong at present.

The Nakhon Phanom air base which is also the headquarters of the Fifth American Air Command, in charge of training the Laotian "special forces".

The Utopao air base with the longest airstrip in Southeast Asia (3,500m) is an operational base for B-52 strategic bombers, to co-ordinate with other B-52s taking off from Guam and Okinawa. Every 6 hours, a 15-minute bombing missions by one or two three-plane flights of B-52s loaded with some 168 tons of bombs, is made against a "cluster of targets".

At present, over 100 B-52s are taking part in the war in Laos and in South Viet Nam. Westmoreland once evaluated the efficacy of this force, which comprises only 500 pilots and personnel, as equivalent to that of four infantry divisions.

The Don Muang air base and other airstrips used as front bases for B-52 bombers, as equivalent to that of four infantry divisions.

According to the French paper *Le Figaro*, the US air force at all these bases is served by 30,000 out of the 40,000 American troops stationed in Thailand. The deployment of such a big air force of the US with such big strategic air bases and the careful assignments for each type of base or aircraft point to the strategic significance of Thai territory for the US in its war of aggression in Laos.

In fact, over 400 US aircraft have been put to use in Laos since the bombing halt in the DRVN averaging 12,000 or 15,000 sorties a month, mostly from Thailand.

Recently, on December 8, in face of undeniable facts and strong opposition from public opinion, US President Richard Nixon had to admit the existence of a "vast US air campaign" in Laos.

2—Thai combat troops committed to the war in Laos under direct US command

Since mid-1964, Thai pilots manning T-28 bombers have joined the US air force in bombings on liberated areas and many of them have been shot down. A captured Thai pilot, Chom Bamrung, shot down on August 18, 1965 with his T-28 plane, confessed:

"The Thai government has given me an assignment at the Vietnamese airfield to co-ordinate with the Phoumi Nosavan party in fighting against the Souphanouvong party. From July 15 to August 18, 1964, I took part in 13 bombing missions, 6 against Phoukhout, 4 against Ban Heng and 3 against Heumuong. The last time, on August 18, 1964, on direct orders from Thao Ma (commander of the Laotian rightist forces at that time), I piloted a T-28 plane, No. 7770, in a reconnaissance flight over Thavien area, Nieng Khaoeng province."

Another Thai pilot admitted that he had made 14 sorties within 35 days, or one sortie every three days and a half. This alone sufficed to reveal the level of Thai air activity over Laos.

In November 1966, the Thailand administration, taking a further step, signed with the Vietnamese clique the so-called "frontier defence treaty" which is in essence a military alli-

ance between Thailand and the Vietnamese stooges, under US aegis. The treaty provides for joint operations by river patrol boats of both sides on the Mekong River and guard units along the frontiers. Even Thai policemen have been sent to form mixed units with the Vietnamese police. Besides, there is an agreement between bandit chieftain Vang Pao and Bangkok on the setting up of a "buffer zone" of the Mekong national minority along the frontiers.

At a meeting on November 27, 1967, Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn publicly acknowledged a joint raid conducted by Thai and Laotian armed forces along the frontiers, in order to provide a shield for the sending of Thai artillery units and two Thai infantry battalions to Laos following talks between Phouma and Thanom early that year.

From clandestinely sending Thai troops in small units to Laos, the Thai authorities have since early 1969, following the bitter setbacks of US and rightist troops at Pathi, Na Khang, Muongui, etc., massively sent Thai combat troops to Laos and, as disclosed by the Western press, about 5,000 Thai troops in Laotian uniforms are now operating beside Vietnamese troops.

With Thai combat troops' participation in the fighting, the US "Vietnam clique" have mustered over 40 battalions, mostly belonging to the US-fostered "special forces" in Laos, supported by the US air force to conduct since August 1969 the "Kou Kiet" encroaching operation against the Plain of Jars-Ngheung Khuang area under the control of the Laotian Patriotic Front and the patriotic neutralist forces.

To transport food and war means and dispatch troops from Thailand to Laos, many strategic roads were built by the US in Thailand. Thus the road linking Bangkok to the Laotian border was completed by the end of 1966 to bring Thai troops from Southern Thailand to Vietnamese within a few hours.

US bases in Thailand: Lopburi, Udon, Nakhon Phanom, etc., are being used to train officers and soldiers, bandits, commanders, "special forces" and other forces in the US mercenary army in Laos.

THE Thailand reactionary administration, on the one hand, are lending a hand to the US in their war aggression in Laos, and on the other, are playing a double game to make use of the strategic Mekong river area to provoke a war of aggression in South-East Asia. On the other, they are plotting to utilize the Thai population of Lao extraction in Northeastern Thailand for the implementation of their expansionist plan against Laos, and in how many pages do you want me to write the report that way? Maybe you are a bit naive to the job."

The Party teaches us to rely on the masses in our work. "Thao answered unswervingly. "A report should not consist of only figures. It must give thorough appraisals to guide the masses to do better."

"Will, do it yourself if

SOUTH VIET NAM GUERRILLA SUCCESSES IN 1969

— A review by Gai Phong Press Agency —

In 1969, the armed forces and people throughout South Viet Nam stepped up guerrilla war against the US aggressors along their own or co-ordinating with other forces, mounted at least to waves of offensives throughout South Viet Nam or on a regional scale such as these in Quang Nam-Guang Nai, Binh Dinh, etc., in September, October and November, and in the High Plateaux in July and November, and in the Mekong river delta in July, September, November and December.

In their concerted operation at the beginning of 1969 the guerrillas struck at most of the cities and towns throughout South Viet Nam, and the urban centres and vicinities, assaulted most of the enemy key strongholds and nerve organs, including those in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Da Lat, and Quy Nhon cities. Heavily defended airfields or bases of the enemy like the Bien Hoa, Da Nang and Nuoc Nam air bases or the Long Binh supply base were also hit.

First reports said that in the six months ending last November, they wiped out more than 80,000 US, puppet and mercenary troops, representing nearly 30 per cent of the total enemy supply in South Viet Nam.

In the Southern part of the country, the guerrillas succeeded in breaking the enemy control and returning to their native villages. The guerrillas were also very active on the enemy communication lines. Many enemy life lines were cut off repeatedly and at different places, bringing "pacification" raids in many localities to a halt. Co-ordinating with the guerrillas' encirclement of enemy positions, the population waged persistent political actions, forcing the enemy to abandon many guerrilla war areas.

The guerrillas also took the form of political agitation among enemy ranks which resulted in the disbandment of important enemy forces.

Guerrilla warfare thus contributed to foiling the program for "Vietnamization" of the war in its initial stage.

3. DIVERSIFIED FORMS OF PEOPLE'S WAR

In 1969, the guerrillas resorted to multifarious forms of action which forced the enemy to parry the blows

Central Viet Nam and Nam Bo alone, the enemy toll in men and material in the said period went up by 25.35 percent compared with the corresponding period in 1968.

2. GUERRILLAS' OFFENSIVE POSTURE KEPT UP IN URBAN AREAS, THEIR ROLE AS CORE OF POPULAR POLITICAL ACTIONS PROMOTED, ENEMY GRIP SHATTERED AND "ACCELERATED PROGRAMME" FOILED

Fighting against such overwhelming odds as intensive enemy fire-power, the guerrillas overcame many difficulties, unflinchingly kept up their offensive posture, firmly stood their ground in the urban centres and vicinities, assaulted most of the enemy key strongholds and nerve organs, including those in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Da Lat, and Quy Nhon cities. Heavily defended airfields or bases of the enemy like the Bien Hoa, Da Nang and Nuoc Nam air bases or the Long Binh supply base were also hit.

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In the Southern part of

Mrs. THUOC, AN EXEMPLARY PARTY MEMBER...

to neighbouring villages to buy new rice seedlings. Silt was heaped all along the roads. Thuc plodded all day in the fields. She was tired but her heart was light. The soil and unity of mind of the villagers instilled confidence in her. In fact, the Party plan, notwithstanding the havoc wrought by the typhoon, was fulfilled.

To get all the daily jobs done is not easy, yet to win the confidence of the people is a much harder one. Thuc knew that only by devoting main and might to the service of the people and the realization of the Party's ideal and setting a good example in every task could she persuade others to follow suit. In fact, not everybody supported her when she first took over the village chairmanship. When the Administrative Committee was to prepare a year-end report to submit to the People's Council, Thuc, in the senior man in charge, by force of habit, one day a detailed report to the district authorities of her village's plan for the new year.

The joy of the afternoon meeting was still warming her heart. She began to sing a lullaby in her sweet and earnest voice. The cottage loomed universal in the milky moonlight.

THUOC woke up before the day had completely broken. After gently laying her head down, she went to the door on tiptoes. She put some rice in the basket, washed the cooking pot and filled it with water. She turned on the tap, getting the pot ready for the elder son to prepare breakfast. She did not either forget to get milk and sugar ready in a bowl for the newborn baby. This done, Thuc hastily put on her conical hat and went out to survey the fields before deciding on the

new measures to take in the coming crop. The rising sun gradually dissipated the thin morning mist about the green fields. Newly-turned furrows lay in straight lines. The sunny weather would dry the clouds morning and when water was brought in and the field was harrowed, the soil would turn rich by the sheer process. Thuc thought of spreading all over the place in the warm sunshine. In a few days they would be taken to the other fields where they continued to proliferate until they covered all the fields in the village. That was one of the things Thuc had predicted with firm conviction in her report at the District.

Looking at the well-ploughed fields and the luxuriant azolla plants, Thuc was all the more confident in the forecast of a bountiful harvest. The winter-spring cultivation in her village. She could now picture in her mind every field in the village and knew which of them was needing more manure and which was water.

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were not immune from the guerrillas' blows. With the guerrillas at their hard core, tens of thousands of people around the towns rose up and destroyed hundreds of "strategic hamlets" and other disguised concentration camps. In 1969, about 10 percent of the people herded in the concentration camps in Tri-Thien-Hue area succeeded in breaking the enemy control and returning to their native villages.

The guerrillas were also very active on the enemy communication lines. Many enemy life lines were cut off repeatedly and at different places, bringing "pacification" raids in many localities to a halt. Co-ordinating with the guerrillas' encirclement of enemy positions, the population waged persistent political actions, forcing the enemy to abandon many guerrilla war areas.

Guerrilla warfare also took the form of political agitation among enemy ranks which resulted in the disbandment of important enemy forces.

Guerrilla warfare thus contributed to foiling the program for "Vietnamization" of the war in its initial stage.

3. DIVERSIFIED FORMS OF PEOPLE'S WAR

In 1969, the guerrillas resorted to multifarious forms of action which forced the enemy to parry the blows

right in their lairs and accept heavy losses.

Not only did they raid enemy posts and fortifications but also struck repeatedly at strongly-guarded enemy strongholds including US and puppet mechanized groups.

The increasing rate of big-gun attacks which at times numbered a score per day represented a substantial advance of guerrilla warfare in 1969. This left practically no enemy position or nerve organ intact.

Guerrilla warfare also exposed enemy weaknesses in their defense by encircling them in their own positions, cutting them off from one another and forcing them with the permanent danger of annihilation. In the Mekong river delta, in North Viet Nam, in Quang Nam, Da Nang and Quang Nam provinces, the guerrillas destroyed or forced the enemy out of many positions. Even in the adverse defense perimeter around the cities and towns, guerrillas were able to cause a potential decrease in the strength of the enemy occupation forces and threatened the encroachment of the grass-root puppet administration — the police and wicked thugs — thus repeating the guerrilla warfare "pacification" raids and encroachments.

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fields surveying. She dropped in at the mechanical pump station to pass the time of day with the workers, enquiring after the machine and its capacity.

She did not return until past noon. The road leading into the village was straight and wide, lined on either side by rows of rice trees. The road had been built only the year before. It was a girls' river pushing a cart loaded with silk, warbling like a flock of birds all along the road. The sight reminded Thuc of the past plight of the Tu Ky girls. She could again remember her village under the colonial-feudal rule. There were only small lanes which in the rainy season would disappear under water and the village would look like an island amidst a sea of dirty water. To enter the village one had to wade across muddy fields. Such roads as she was walking on were simply unsuitable. Today, not only the villagers had built big roads to free themselves from the shoulder pole but the roads were large roads for the Party to free themselves from the old destitute life and march toward a bright future. That road was being pursued by Thuc and those happy girls.

Expressed in her visions, Thuc went about all the fields to survey the fields before deciding on the

TRUNG DONG

The Nixon Administration's ...

(Continued from page 4)

destroy villages and all sources of life of the population. In an average, since September 1969, there have been 3 B-52 raids every week with 250-750 kg bombs, that is twice the rate recorded in the first 6 months.

The Nixon administration also ordered US warships of the Seventh Fleet and US

artillery based from South of Ben Hai river to bombard 60 villages in the Northern part of the DMZ, and 32 villages in the next 3 months. In September 1969, there have been 3 B-52 raids every week with 250-750 kg bombs, that is twice the rate recorded in the first 6 months.

The Nixon administration also ordered US warships of the Seventh Fleet and US

Military Operations

News from Saigon

MEKONG DELTA

BETWEEN Jan. 1 and 15, in **Ban Tre** province, PLAF men killed 992, wounded 313 and captured 4 enemy troops in 120 engagements, **Giai Phong** Press Agency reported. Besides, 786 members of the puppet army joined the ranks of the patriotic forces. In total, more than 3,000 men, including 21 officers, were put out of action in these attacks, two companies and 5 platoons of puppet "marines" were annihilated, 2 regional companies devastated, 3 cannons and 7 vehicles destroyed and a great quantity of weapons seized.

In a big sweep mounted by the enemy in 4 districts of **Tra Vinh** province, since Jan. 1 last, the PLAF killed or wounded 700 puppet troops and grounded to choppers after 11 days of fierce battles. Dozens of militiamen of the puppet army crossed over to the people's side.

The same source reported that in **Chau Doc** province, the enemy took about 450 casualties between Jan. 9 and 14. On the night of Jan. 13, at **Ba Xoai** alone, the PLAF wiped out 3 puppet companies, all the American "advisers", 2 cannons and 1 military vehicle wrecked.

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN TRUNG BO

GIAI PHONG Press Agency laid stress on the following operations:

— **Da Nang** sector: annihilation of 240 adverse

troops including 80 GIs and South Korean mercenaries (40 in the 2nd town district) on Jan. 3, 4 and 6, 1970.

— **Tam Ky** sector: routing of a big sweep West of the provincial capital destroyed by armoured vehicles and aircraft from Jan. 6 to 8; over 400 enemy casualties, including one hundred GIs, 8 out of 23 armoured vehicles destroyed and 10 choppers downed.

— **Quang Ngai** sector: PLAF attacks of 36 enemy positions from Jan. 3 to 7; 550 enemy casualties including 273 American, a battalion CP and a US artillery company annihilated, a US battalion, a US company and a puppet battalion badly mauled, 2 cannons and 5 military vehicles destroyed.

— **Binh Dinh** sector: PLAF onset on a South Korean regimental CP, 2 km from **Qui Nhon** town, on Jan. 4; about one hundred men including 60 officers killed or wounded. Interception on Jan. 6 of a truck convoy of South Korean mercenaries on Road No. 19 East of **An Khe**: 15 vehicles destroyed, 30 enemy casualties. On Jan. 18, another column suffered the same fate. Western press reported.

— **Binh Thuan** sector: PLAF attacks on 5 districts and **Phan Thiet** provincial capital on the night of Jan. 6; 300 enemy casualties.

— **Da Lat** sector: storming of **Cam Ly** airfield and an important urban centre on the night of Jan. 6, followed by clashes with enemy counter-attacking

forces: over 200 adverse troops put out of action, 73 vehicles wrecked, 4 fuel tanks burnt.

OTHER OPERATIONS

N Tay Ninh province, 200 enemy troops including 150 GIs put out of action, 13 vehicles destroyed near **Go Dau**, about 60 km Northwest of Saigon on Jan. 8 and 9. In the battles about 40 km Northeast of **Tay Ninh** town between Dec. 30 and Jan. 11, the enemy took 335 casualties (213 GIs) and had 17 choppers downed and 7 tanks and armoured cars destroyed.

— In the mountainous sector of **Quang Tri** and **Thua Thien** area (between **Khe Sanh** and **A Bia**), from Jan. 2 to 17, 20 planes and choppers were grounded and 6 were damaged. On Jan. 2, 8 choppers were knocked out of the skies South of **Khe Sanh**, and on Jan. 17 a spotter chopper was grounded, killing an American colonel, the deputy commander of the US artillery unit at **Tri-Thien**.

— Western agencies reported that at least 110 targets were bombed by the PLAF in 3 nights: 30 on Jan. 18 (21 in the **Mekong Delta**), 20 on Jan. 19 including a subsector CP in **Go Cong** province, south of Saigon, and 60 on Jan. 20 including **Bien Hoa** airbase, the HQ of the US Army at **Long Binh**, the HQ of the **First Cav.** at **Phuoc Vinh**, the HQ of a brigade of the **Tropic Lightning**, near **Tay Ninh**, **Phan Rang** air base, and **Phan Thiet** and **Gia Nghia** provincial capitals (Southern **Trung Bo**).

Medicinal drugs being manufactured in a laboratory of South Viet Nam free zone



★ Students Denounce GIs and South Korean Mercenaries' Massacre of Civilians

IN a teach-in at the **An Quang** pagoda on Jan. 15 last, attended by Buddhist leaders, politicians and senators, 300 students denounced the massacre of 200 civilians at **Phu Yen** in 1969 by South Korean troops and GIs as a crime which "outraged the ways and customs of the Vietnamese". Western sources reported. They strongly

took to task the Saigon authorities for hushing up the truth. A "senator" flayed the puppet administration for "bringing in snakes to kill chickens of the home coop". A Buddhist leader unmasked Thien as a Washington placeman "protected by armoured cars and cannons".

★ Monsters

The Saigon press revealed that owing to increased sprayings of toxic chemicals, many women had, over the last few months, given birth to monsters. According to the **Saigon Sunday Post**, in November, a woman was delivered of a monster having a fair-complexioned face,

a black and scaled body and footless twin legs. **Tia Saug** reported that at the **Tu Du** hospital and **Hung Vuong** clinic, many women had "laid eggs" (*Okinawa disease*). In the first half of 1969, there were 49 cases of these spawnings involving mostly country-women.

★ Economic Crisis

The same sources disclosed that prices had been spiralling up and inflation was a "persistent problem". The cost of living has soared by 34 per cent in the last few months compared with the corresponding period of 1968. In the first week of 1970, the prices of grain rose by 35 per cent and of other commodities by 29 per cent, those of some imported goods by 75 per cent (*UPT*, Jan. 8).

The devaluation of the piastre is catastrophic, the dollar fetching 350 piastres in the black market, while the official exchange rate is 118 only. The slump continues on the threshold of 1970. *UPT* said.

★ Thieu Threatens Repression against the Campaign in Favour of a Neutralist Union Government

On Jan. 13, at **Vung Tau**, **Nguyen Van Thieu** fluminated against the opponents of the war. He declared that the resistance forces should be crushed and all "co-operation" with the **NFL** and

DRVN rejected. The advocates of a political solution were also threatened. "We are going to suppress all campaigns in favour of a neutralist union government," he said.

★ Internal Rivalries among Puppets

AFP reported on Jan. 13 that Thieu had wrought a change in his diplomatic personnel on the other hand. Western sources said that **Generals Nguyen Thanh Hoang**, commanding the puppet 7th Division, and **Lam Son**, commanding the Special Forces at **Nha Trang**, and

Colonel Do Kim Giai, commanding the 18th Division, had been sacked together with many other field officers in the Saigon-Cholon-High Plateaux, the 44th Special Area, etc. There was rumor of a Thieu plan to remove from 12 to 14 provincial chiefs.

★ The US Command Afraid of Truth

According to *USIS* of Jan. 16, the US Command banned all statements by **NFL**-released POWs on the humane treatments they had received during their detention. This decision was

taken as a result of declarations made by 3 GIs set free in November and 2 others in December last. One of them said he would never fight against the South Vietnamese people again.